

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 03690 191626Z

44

ACTION SS-25

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P 191545Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8786

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3690

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS GR VS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF US WEAPONS FROM VIETNAM

1. OVER THE WEEKEND I SAW DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF WHO TOLD ME THAT THE GREEK GOVT HAD BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF US WEAPONS FROM VIETNAM. HE SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD THAT A VARIETY OF "LIKE NEW" US WEAPONS WERE AVAILABLE AND THAT THE PRICES WERE VERY ATTRACTIVE -- APPROX 25 PERCENT OF THEIR ORIGINAL COST. AVEROFF SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF THESE WERE BONA FIDE OFFERS OF AVAILABILITY AND HE WAS HAVING THE MATTER CAREFULLY CHECKED BECAUSE, IF TRUE, SUCH WEAPONS WOULD BE A GOOD BUY AND PRESUMABLY PROMPTLY AVAILABLE, AND "BETTER THEY BE IN GREEK HANDS THAN VIETNAMESE".

2. I TRIED TO GET ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM AVEROFF BUT HE WAS UNWILLING TO SAY ANY MORE AT THIS STAGE. HE DID PROMISE TO GIVE ME FURTHER INFORMATION IF THIS TURNED OUT TO BE A SERIOUS OFFER OF SUCH EQUIPMENT.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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